

In lighter vein I must recount that while referring to the various standard textbooks I noticed that the current one by Bernard Skinner referred to *E. similis* by a different vernacular name to that used by me in the title of this note. Why had he not used the familiar 'Gold-tail'? To my astonishment, South (1939. *The Moths of the British Isles*) also used the name 'yellow-tail', as does Edward Newman (1874. *An Illustrated Natural History of British Moths*). An exception is L. W. Newman and Leeds' book of 1913, which gives both names, with 'yellow-tail' the more prominent.

So, why had I used 'Gold-tail'? Further investigation showed me to be in-very good company – two eminent lepidopterists, Michael Chalmers-Hunt and Barry Goater evidently preferred 'Gold-tail', using it in their local works for Kent and Hampshire respectively. I presume the reason is that some other books on British moths current in the inter-war years used the more appropriate name 'Gold-tail'. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

Hylaea fasciaria L., ab. *prasinaria* D. & S. (Lep.: Geometridae): the Barred Red

This being my first year running a trap in the garden of my new home in Suffolk, it is going to take a while to become accustomed to relevant frequency and scarcity of different species arriving at light. While getting used to the 'norm' of what I may expect to see in the area a few records have struck me as interesting in any context. One such has been the records of *Hylaea fasciaria* L., the Barred Red, and the green aberration, *prasinaria* D.& S. coming to light. I have taken specimens of this ab. in the 1970s and 1980s in the Orlestone Forest, at Hamstreet in Kent, where it was regarded as a regular but scarce insect, and managed to breed it then. I have no recollection of the proportion of type to ab. *prasinaria* taken at light then at Hamstreet, but it was always a pleasant surprise to see.

Here in Suffolk in my first year I have seen just five *H. fasciaria*, but two were of the *prasinaria* form. This is a much higher proportion than I have encountered before. I am aware that this is too small a sample to use as a true guide as to the status of the green form here, but it will be interesting to see what happens in 2005. — DAVID WILSON, Lark Rise, Dunwich Road, Blythburgh, Suffolk IP19 9LT.

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The Great Fen Project – an appeal for records

Many readers in the Anglia television region will be aware of the Great Fen Project because of the publicity given to it in the local news programmes, for those who are not familiar with the project I quote the following from the first newsletter published in March 2004. "The Great Fen Project is an ambitious long-term restoration project designed to safeguard important wildlife habitats and species by restoring over 3000 hectares of wetland in the fen landscape of Huntingdonshire. In doing so it will